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June 28, 1961

NATIONAL SECURITY ACTION MEMORANDUM NO. 56

TO: The Secretary of Defense

SUBJECT: Evaluation of Paramilitary Requirements

The President has approved the following paragraph:

"It is important that we anticipate now our possible future requirements in the field of unconventional warfare and paramilitary operations. A first step would be to inventory the paramilitary assets we have in the United States Armed Forces, consider various areas in the world where the implementation of our policy may require indigenous paramilitary forces, and thus arrive at a determination of the goals which we should set in this field. Having determined the assets and the possible requirements, it would then become a matter of developing a plan to meet the deficit."

The President requests that the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Department of State and the CIA, make such an estimate of requirements and recommend ways and means to meet these requirements.

McGeorge Bundy

cc: Secretary of State  
Director, CIA  
General Maxwell D. Taylor

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HS/CSG-4738

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Date: 7/30 JUL 1969

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AREA OR COUNTRY(S)	ORGANIZATION	FUNCTIONS & TOPICS	PERSONALITIES	DOCUMENT
HQ	White House	UW		DATE: 28 June 1961
	DOD	Paramilitary		
	State	NSAM 56		
	CIA			
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**ABSTRACT**

In this action the President approved anticipation of possible future requirements in the field of unconventional warfare and paramilitary operations. A first step would be an inventory of PM assets in the U. S. armed forces in relationship to areas of the world where U.S. policy may require indigenous paramilitary forces. This would provide a determination of goals -- assets and possible requirements which would allow planning for deficit. Estimate of requirements and recommendations was to be done by DOD in coordination with State and CIA.

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